

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DMACK

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R 030502Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WATER ISLE BOTANICAL GARDENS BOX 570 ST THOMAS

VIRGIN ISLANDS TEL 774 0646

UNCLAS STATE 080376

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM GUAYAQUIL DATED APRIL 2, 1976 SENT  
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 0540

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC : (YACHT DRAGON)

SUBJ: W/W

1. CONGEN HAS RECEIVED BRIEF UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM ECUADOREAN MERCHANT MARINE DIRECTORATE THAT CAPTAIN OF US FLAG YACHT DRAGON DISMISSED THREE CREWMEN FOR INCOMPETENCE AND ABANDONED THEM IN GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND MILES OFF ECUADOREAN COAST.) VESSEL REPORTEDLY DEPARTED GALAPAGOS MARCH 28 PRESUMABLY EN ROUTE SOUTH PACIFIC.

2. ACCORDING INFO OBTAINED FROM USDAO QUITO, DRAGON WAS DOING RESEARCH IN GALAPAGOS FOR ITS OWNERS WATER ISLE BOTANICAL GARDENS, BOX 570, ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS (TEL. 774-0646) DR. WALTER H. PHILLIPS IS DIRECTOR. RESEARCH MAY HAVE SOME SUPPORT FROM GOVT. VIRGIN ISLANDS. DRAGON IS BELIEVED HAVE NORMAL COMPLEMENT OF FOUR CREWMEN AND FOUR SCIENTISTS AT LEAST TWO OF WHOM ARE NOT AMCITS.

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AROUND GALAPAGOS HAVE PREVENTED RADIO CONTACT FROM GUAYAQUIL TO CONFIRM THE ABOVE AND OBTAIN MORE  
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FACTS. CABLES TO GOVERNOR OF ISLANDS ARE UNANSWERED.

SITUATION IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT THE ONE FLIGHT PER WEEK SERVING GALAPAGOS IS BOOKED UNTIL APRIL 30. FURTHER, RATES AT THE ONLY HOTEL IN ISLANDS ARE VERY HIGH.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

REQUEST DEPT CONTACT WATER ISLE TO SEE IF THEY HAVE RECEIVED ANY WORD FROM THE SHIP CONFIRMING ABOVE. IF SO, CAN THEY CONFIRM THAT THE ABANDONED CREWMEN ARE AMCITS? WILL WATER ISLE COVER COSTS OF REPATRIATION? IF THEY REFUSE PAY COSTS CAN THEY PROVIDE NAMES AND ADDRESSES NOK.

5. WATER ISLE MAY BE ABLE MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH CHARLES DARWIN STATION IN GALAPAGOS. IF NOT, CONGEN WILL ARRANGE TRAVEL ON RECEIPT SCS TRUST. TRAVEL FROM GALAPAGOS TO GUAYAQUIL WILL HAVE TO BE BY BOAT WHICH TAKES THREE DAYS. COST \$75.00. GUAYAQUIL-MIAMI AIRFARE DOLS 204.00. SUBSISTENCE SHOULD BE CALCULATED AT DOLS THIRTY PER PERSON PER DAY.  
BISHTOO UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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